

Message from the Director, South Dakota Water Science Center

Welcome to the South Dakota, USGS Water Science Center (SDWSC), Web Portal! This site is your access to data, interpretive reports, press releases, photos and other information on the hydrology of South Dakota. Our mission is to collect high-quality hydrologic data and conduct objective scientific investigations on the quantity, quality, and use of surface- and ground-water resources of the State. The SDWSC is within the Water Resources Discipline (WRD) of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)—a Department of Interior agency with Headquarters in Reston, Virginia. The SDWSC is organized into three offices—Rapid City (Director's Office), Huron and Pierre. The offices are geographically located in the State to respond to hydrologic events and to maintain liaison with cooperating State and Federal agencies. The technical staff is organized into three sections: 1) the Hydrologic Data Section, which operate the data collection networks, and 2) the Studies Section, which investigates and assesses the quantity, quality, and use of the State's water resources, and 3) the National Synthesis Project of the National Water Quality Assessment Program (NAWQA) for Volatile Organic Compounds.

The Hydrologic Data Section maintains a network of hydrologic data-collection sites and compiles hydrologic data collected from these sites for public use. Hydrologic data include records of (1) stage and discharge of principal rivers and streams; (2) chemistry and suspended-sediment concentration of selected rivers; (3) water levels in selected aquifers; and (4) water use. The data are compiled and permanently archived into a USGS databases and published annually on-line in the report series "Water Resources Data—South Dakota." A single point of retrieval for the public for all water sites in the United States is available at (<http://water.usgs.gov>). Many sites are also available in real-time, using satellite telemetry to transmit current hydrologic conditions at the more than 100 streamflow-gaging stations in South Dakota (<http://sd.water.usgs.gov>).

The investigation and assessment of the surface- and ground-water resources of South Dakota is accomplished through a series of projects conducted by the Studies Section. Program emphasis is to provide timely, objective hydrologic information to Federal, Tribal, State, and local agencies regarding water-supply availability, water quality, water-source identification, and water-resource management. The SDWSC works cooperatively with many of the tribes in South Dakota to assist them in their efforts to manage their water resources.

I trust you will find the information and contacts available herein to be of value to you. I invite you to contact me if you have questions, concerns or other needs for information regarding South Dakota's water resources.

Thank you for visiting our Web Page!

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